



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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19 MAY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
19 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

Da Nang was reported to be quiet tonight after the clash there earlier today.

Just who is in command of the government force at Da Nang is not clear at the moment. The new corps commander and part of his staff have taken refuge at US headquarters, and National Police Director Loan, who was on the scene apparently undercutting him, has gone back to Saigon. The unit commanders on the spot are reported to be under orders to watch the pagodas but not to attack them. Premier Ky told Deputy Ambassador Porter today in Saigon that his plan now is to cordon them off to block the entrance of supplies.

Ky also says he has made no plan to move against Hué. He apparently hopes the dissident military force there will wither on the vine; the troops, he claims, will begin to desert back to their units when their pay is due at the end of the month.

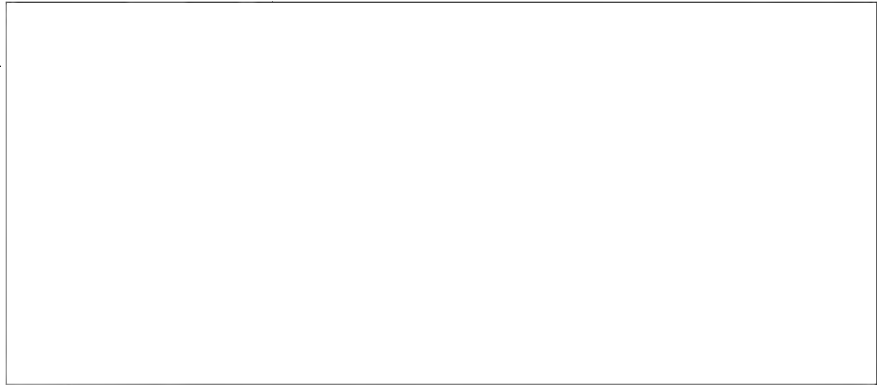
In Hué, General Thi, whose scheduled meeting with Ky fell apart, takes the line that as long as Ky stays in power "there will be turmoil," and that any meeting between the two must be in Hué on Thi's terms.

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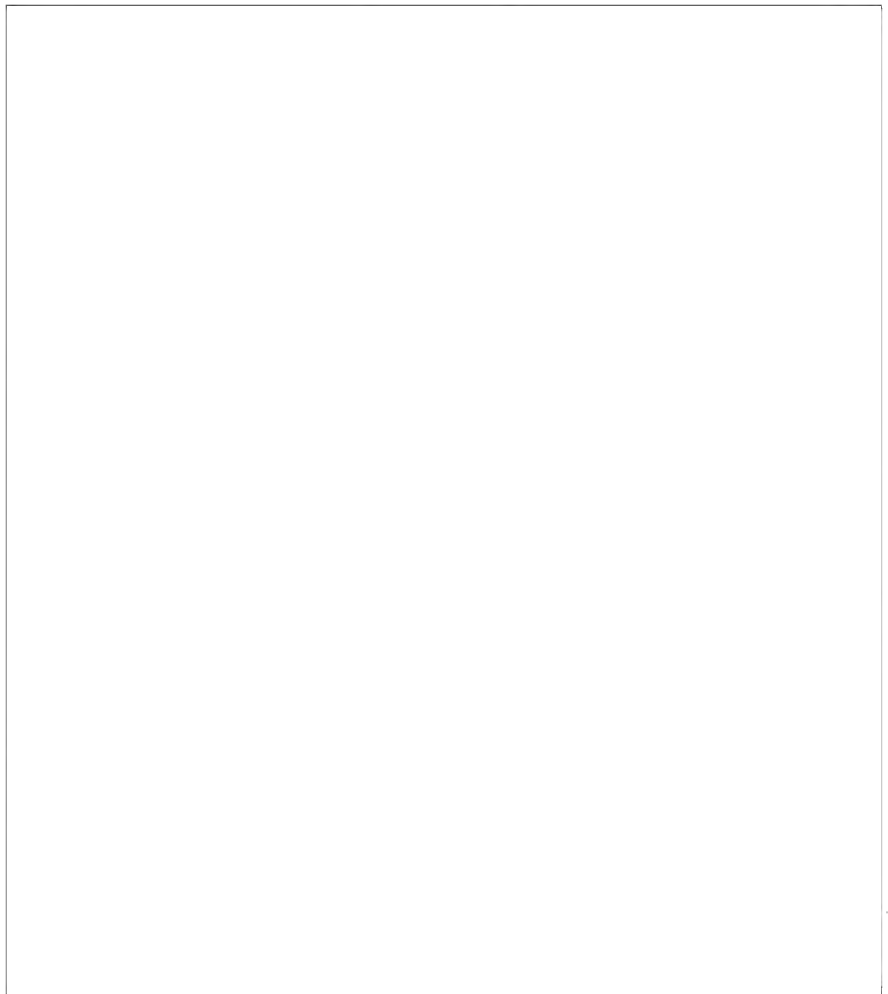
2. Soviet Union

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3. France

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4. Cuba

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5. Dominican Republic

Bosch's party has withdrawn the election boycott threat, at least for this time, and there are signs that the candidate's grandstand play may have backfired.

Bosch's detailed charges that incidents of "political persecution" have taken place in various parts of the country have proven exaggerated, misleading, or mere rumormongering.

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Some Bosch partisans are reported convinced that their campaign has lost ground in recent weeks. They say they need at least 45 more days to reverse what they sense to be a swing to Balaguer. Thus they are seeking ways to have the elections postponed, at least until 1 July.

6. Indonesia

There are signs of progress in Foreign Minister Malik's effort to end Sukarno's old policy of "confrontation" against Malaysia.

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official talks between the two countries may get under way next week.

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